

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 W
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O R 271621Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7643

INFO AMCONSUL LEINGRAD

USIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV, CU/ARTS; LENINGRAD FOR P&C;
USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: SAN FRANCISCO-LENINGRAD CULTURAL EXCHANGE

REF: STATE 035445

1. EMBASSY AND CONGEN AWARE OF BOONE/SAN FRANCISCO
INTEREST IN SUBJECT AND HAVE BEEN IN INTERMITTENT CONTACT
WITH HIM SINCE VISIT OF SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY. IN A
LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 3 TO CONGEN (SHEEHAN) HE ADVISED AS
FOLLOWS: ZINCHUK, AS EXPECTED, TOLD HIM THAT ON SOVIET SIDE,
EXCHANGE EXCEPT THROUGH MINCULT IMPOSSIBLE; FURTHER ADVISED
THAT BOONE QUOTE AND THE SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR...SHOULD BRING
PRESSURE ON OUR STATE DEPARTMENT TO INCLUDE A.C.T.
(AMERICAN CONSERVATORY THEATER) IN THE BASIC CULTURAL
EXCHANGE AGREEMENT, PLUS A SAN FRANCISCO MUSIC GROUP WHICH
CAN BE ATTACHED, ACCORDING TO HIM, AS AN EXTRAN ITEM IN
THE TREATY. HE ASSURES ME THAT THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE
WILL WANT THIS EXCHANGE AS WELL AS LENINGRAD, IF IT IS DONE
IN THIS WAY. END QUOTE.

2. IN EMBASSY:CONGEN VIEW, THERE ARE THREE BASIC WAYS
SEVERAL EXCHANGE IDEAS RAISED BY SAN FRANCISCO AND
SOVIETS CAN BE FUNDED:

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(A) FOR MOST PROJECTS--ON U.S. SIDE, PRIVATE SOURCE

FUNDING, AS IS NORMAL POLICY WITH MOST SISTER CITY ACTIVITIES; ON SOVIET SIDE, IT IS UP TO LENINGRAD AND INTERESTED NATIONAL MINISTRIES, SUCH AS MFA, TO DETERMINE FUNDING, PRESUMABLY ASKING ASSISTANCE OF ORGANS RESPONSIBLE FOR A GIVEN ACTIVITY, E.E. MINCULT FOR PERFORMING ARTS.

(B) FOR EXCHANGE OF PERSONS IN FIELDS COVERED BY CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT--E.G. THEATER DIRECTORS (PARA 2 REFTEL) OR MUSEUM DIRECTORS AND LEADERS IN OTHER FIELDS. IF CANDIDATES ARE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES, SUCH EXCHANGES COULD BE NOMINATED AND FUNDED THROUGH THE USUAL CHANNELS FOR EACH EXCHANGE-OF-PERSONS CATEGORY.

(C) FOR MAJOR PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS--ON U.S. SIDE, SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY EXAMPLE COULD BE USED IN A FEW IMPORTANT INSTANCES TO BRING A SAN FRANCISCO GROUP TO LEINGRAD BECAUSE OF SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP ALONE. A.C.T., WHICH IS BEING DISCUSSED FOR SEPTEMBER, 1975, IS A SIMILAR POSSIBILITY, AND THERE MAY BE OTHERS FOR FUTURE. HOWEVER, SOVIETS WOULD NOT RPT NOT SUPPORT SUBSTANTIAL PERFORMING ARTS TOUR JUST FOR LENINGRAD AND WE BELIEVE U.S. SHOULD NOT EITHER. ON SOVIET SIDE, SOVIET PERFORMING GROUPS VISITING U.S. ARE INVITED AND SPONSORED BY U.S. COMMERCIAL IMPRESSARIOS. POSSIBLY SAN FRANCISCO COULD ORGANIZE SOME TYPE OF GROUP SPONSORSHIP, AND WITH A SMALL ARTISTIC COMPANY, PROJECT COULD BE FINANCIALLY Viable. CONGEN CITES SOME POSSIBILITIES, WITH CHAMBER ORCHESTRAS MORE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF SIZE, BUT POSSIBLE IF U.S. COMMERCIAL IMPRESSARIO WOULD PICK UP FOR WIDER U.S. TOUR: TWO FIRST-QUALITY STRING QUARTETS: TANAЕVA STRING QUARTET AND LENINGRAD PHILHARMONIC STRING QUARTET, AND TWO CHAMBER ORCHESTRAS: LENINGRAD CHAMBER ORCHESTRA AND RIMSKY-KORSAKOV CONSERVATORY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA. BELIEVE INITIATIVE FOR ORGANIZING U.S. PRIVATE SUPPORT MUST COME FROM SAN FRANCISCO AND THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBTAINING SOVIET GOVERNMENT BACKING MUST BE IN HANDS OF LENINGRAD HERE AND SOVIET CONGEN IN U.S. IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE EFFECTIVE FOR U.S. TO TAKE LEAD PROMOTING THE SOVIET PROJECTS WITH VARIOUS SOVIET MINISTRIES IN MOSCOW, AND WE DOUBT THAT STATE DEPARTMENT SHOULD TAKE LEAD PROMOTING SOVIET PROJECTS WITH U.S. COMMERCIAL IMPRESSARIOS.

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3. IN ADDITION GENERAL COMMENT ABOVE, WE WILL BE GLAD TO MAKE FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS ON SPECIFIC EXCHANGE IDEAS WHICH SAN FRANCISCO MAY PROPOSE.

4. IN MEANTIME, A.C.T. WOULD BE EXCELLENT NEXT STEP IN SAN FRANCISCO-LENINGRAD EXCHANGES AS WELL AS THE MAJOR U.S. PERFORMING ARTS EVENT IN USSR FOR 1975. HOPE DEPARTMENT CAN FORWARD NOMINATION SOONEST. ATTACHED

MUSIC GROUP, HOWEVER, DOES NOT SEEM WORKABLE, SINCE IT
WOULD HAVE TO BE FUNDED AND APPROVED SEPARATELY AND COULD
NOT READILY BE PROGRAMMED IN CITIES OTHER THAN LENINGRAD
DURING TOUR. THEATER-CONNECTED ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES
WOULD BE WELCOME, E.G. LECTURE-DEMONSTRATIONS AT
UNIVERSITIES AND THEATER SCHOOLS BY MEMBERS OF COMPANY WHO
NORMALLY WOULD BE ON TOUR IN PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY.

5. SMALL SAN FRANCISCO GROUPS OR SOLOISTS (QUARTET, TRIO,
POPULAR MUSIC) MIGHT BE INVITED BY GOSKONTsert FOR USSR
TOUR INCLUDING LENINGRAD IF QUALITY IS TOPS. BUT
FINANCIAL CONDITIONS WOULD EXCLUDE TRANS-ATLANTIC TRAVEL,
OR TRANSPORTATION OF OTHER THAN VERY MINIMUM PROPERTIES.
GROUP WOULD HAVE TO BE TOURING WESTERN EUROPE OR HAVE
TRANS-ATLANTIC COST SUPPORTED BY PRIVATE SOURCES.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW02696
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750069-0740
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975027/aaaaafyw.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 035445
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAN FRANCISCO-LENINGRAD CULTURAL EXCHANGE
TAGS: OEXC, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006